

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Dawn Smith, 804-786-5351

**Virginia Secretary of Public Safety Hosts 2nd Annual
“Public Safety Supplier Diversity Fair”
for Small, Women, and Minority-Owned Businesses**

RICHMOND – The Virginia Secretary of Public Safety's office will host a Public Safety Supplier Diversity Fair in Hampton Roads next month to strengthen procurement opportunities with small, women and minority-owned businesses throughout Virginia. Businesses will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from state public safety agencies so vendors can increase their knowledge of the agencies, and the procurement services and products that they currently utilize.

“A variety of vendors support our public safety agencies through their products and services that help the Commonwealth keep all of Virginia’s citizens safe,” Governor Kaine said. “As the nature of public safety concerns continue to change, we must engage more businesses capable of providing new innovations, particularly small Virginia businesses and those owned by women and minorities.”

“Last year, we sponsored the first Public Safety Supplier Diversity Fair and attracted over 200 Small, Women-Owned, and Minority (SWAM) businesses throughout the state,” said Secretary John Marshall. “The true success of the Fair was demonstrated with the increase of sales from the vendors and the number of secured contracts obtained by the agencies. Networking with SWAM businesses is the key to increasing procurement opportunities, working collaboratively and developing new partnerships.”

The fair will be held at Old Dominion University, Constant Convocation Center, Norfolk, Virginia on **July 18, 2006**, from **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

The half-day fair will exhibit each Public Safety Agency’s procurement process and allow for future business opportunities. It will also include presentations from the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise on the SWAM certification process, the Virginia Department of Business Assistance, Virginia Department of General Services on eVA registration and the Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA). The Public Safety Agencies include: Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ Services Council (CASC), Virginia Department of Correctional Education (DCE), Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC), Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Virginia Department of Fire Programs (DFP), Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS), Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Virginia Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Virginia Parole Board (VPB), Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS).

To register for the Fair and for additional information, please visit the website below:

<http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/trainingEvents/psSupplier/2006.cfm> or contact Gwendolyn Hendricks at 804-786-2432. In addition, you may also register at any participating agency website. Deadline for registration is July 5th.

To receive directions to Old Dominion University, please visit the website below:

<http://www.constantcenter.com/directions.cfm>.